

January 17, 2026

# Denyce Graves

Emmy and Grammy Award winner and  
Global Music Ambassador for the USA

---

## *The African-American Contribution to American Culture*

American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves has captivated audiences across the globe for over four decades, gracing the world's most esteemed opera houses and concert halls. Ms. Graves has championed world premieres of operas and song cycles, garnered numerous prestigious awards, and triumphed in elite international competitions.

Her defining operatic portrayals include the eponymous heroines Carmen and Dalila, and more contemporary Margaret Garner in *The Passion of Mary Cardwell Dawson*. In the 2025-2026 season, Ms. Graves returns to the Metropolitan Opera as Maria in *Porgy and Bess*. Beyond her illustrious performing career, Ms. Graves is a dedicated educator and esteemed faculty member at the Juilliard School and the Peabody Conservatory.



In 2021, Ms. Graves founded The Denyce Graves Foundation to support vocal artists at every stage of their careers while honoring the trailblazers who came before. The Foundation's mission is to cultivate and elevate exceptionally gifted singers from all backgrounds, ensuring they have the resources and guidance to reach their full potential. Ms. Graves will retire at the close of the Metropolitan Opera's *Porgy and Bess* this January 24th.

***Sponsored by: Jaime Banks & Jon Grossman; Rabbi George Driesen & family; Yael Septee Kane & Donald Kane; Joyce & Nelson Migdal; Marcia Nusgart; and Phil & Marla Zipin.***

# Accompanying Artists



## Symone Harcum, Soprano

Symone Harcum received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Norfolk State University in 2012. She worked as a choral director in Norfolk Public Schools until 2016. Symone received her Master's of Music from Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University and continues to study in the studio of Denyce Graves and Margaret Baroody. Symone is proud to have joined the voice faculty of her alma mater, Norfolk State University.

Symone comes off of the 2022-2023 season with a successful string of role and house debuts including the Glimmerglass Festival in the role of Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen*, Almirena in Handel's *Rinaldo* and Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Minnesota Opera. At the Lyric Opera of Chicago, she sang the role of Sandra in the world premier of Will Liverman's *Factotum*. Last season, Symone appeared with Minnesota Opera as Léontine in *The Anonymous Lover* and Micaëla in *Carmen*, and Virginia Opera as La Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. This season will see a role debut as Mimì in Puccini's *La Bohème* at Minnesota Opera as well as recital and concert engagements across the country. Other notable roles and achievements include being 2018's first place winner of both the National Society of Arts and Letters-DC Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Voice Competition and the Sylvia Green Voice Competition; The roles of Bea in Opera Maine's production of *Three Decembers*, Krystyna Zywulska in Peabody Opera's workshop of *Out of Darkness: Two Remain* with the composer, Jake Heggie, and librettist, Gene Scheer, Gertrude (the mother) in Humperdinck's *Hansel und Gretel* and La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*.

## Elliott Brown, Tenor

A native of Bloomfield, Connecticut, Elliott Brown is a proud alumnus of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, where he studied with Dr. Angela Small Blalock. Mr. Brown is currently a graduate student at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, where he continues his vocal studies under the guidance of Dr. Angela Small Blalock.

Mr. Brown has appeared as a featured soloist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and numerous other symphonic ensembles. His operatic credits include the role of Emperor Altoum in Puccini's *Turandot*, Arcas in Nmon Ford's

*Orpheus*, Robbins and Nelson in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, Don José in Bizet's *Carmen*, the Officer in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca*, Il Messaggero in Verdi's *Aida*, and Wesley Harris in Paul Moravec's *Sanctuary Road*. Mr. Brown is also in high demand as an oratorio and concert soloist. His repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Adolphus Hailstork's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*. He has performed in recitals throughout the eastern seaboard and internationally, and has appeared with Connecticut Opera, the National Black Caucus, and the 105 HBCU Voices of History. He has also served as a National Anthem soloist for former Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland.



## Elizabeth G. Hill, piano

A recognized leader in chamber music and contemporary music advocacy, pianist Elizabeth G. Hill has performed across the US and Europe in service of her life's work: joining cultures together through music. Elizabeth is a co-founder of the chamber duo Meraki, dedicated to awakening cultural compassion through music. She is also pianist for Balance Campaign, a chamber ensemble whose focus lies exclusively on commissioning and performing works by marginalized composers. She is the pianist and organist for the National Philharmonic.

An active pedagogue, Elizabeth is a private piano teacher in the DC area, and a member of the Collaborative Piano Faculty at the Heifetz International Music Institute. Raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Elizabeth holds degrees from Mary Baldwin College (B.A.), James Madison University (M.M.), and The Catholic University of America (D.M.A. with a specialization in Chamber Music). Visit [lizhillpiano.com](http://lizhillpiano.com) or follow [@lizhillpiano](https://www.instagram.com/lizhillpiano) for more.